

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING COMPONENTS IN AN IT SYSTEM****Abstract of the Disclosure**

5           A system and method for collecting information on components in an information  
technology (IT) system. This embodiment features discovering components in the IT system,  
determining at least one dependency between two or more of the discovered components, and  
tracking changes to the discovered components and the dependency between two or more of the  
discovered components. The discovery of components can be carried out using fingerprints of  
10       components, which can include key elements of the component that exist in a full model of all of  
the elements of the component.